

AmeriCorps*State Program 2017-2018 Request for Application

Bidders' Conference



PRESENTER

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Executive Director

Serve Illinois Commission

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Bidders' Conference Agenda

- ❖ **Serve Illinois Commission**
- ❖ **National Service**
- ❖ **AmeriCorps*State Programs**
- ❖ **2017-2018 NOFO**
 - **Application procedures**
 - **Program requirements for 2017-18**
- ❖ **FAQs**

Serve Illinois Commission Mission

Mission: To improve Illinois communities by enhancing volunteerism and instilling an ethic of service throughout the State.



Serve Illinois Commission

- **Formed in 1979**
- **Established in legislative statute in July 2000.
(PA98-0692, 20 ILCS 2330)**
- **Commission's stated purpose:**
 1. **"... to promote and support community service..."**
 2. **"to stimulate new volunteerism..."**
 3. **"to serve as a resource...and an advocate..."**

Serve Illinois Commission

State Agency Location

**Located in the
Illinois Department of Public Health
Office of Emergency and Preparedness**

**Serve Illinois Commission
Illinois Department of Public Health
422 South Fifth Street – 1st Floor
Springfield Illinois 62701
www.Serve.Illinois.gov
[@Servellinois](https://twitter.com/Servellinois)
www.Facebook.com/Servellinois**



Serve Illinois Commission

Make-up and Duties

- 40 (25 voting and 15 non-voting) Governor-appointed commissioners
- Funds and administer AmeriCorps*State programs
- Promotes National Days of Service
- Coordinates training and professional development
- Volunteers Recognition
- Collaborates with volunteer organizations



National Service and AmeriCorps



National Community Service Trust Act of 1993

Established the Corporation
For National & Community
Service (CNCS)



Required the establishment of state service commissions

CNCS is the federal funding entity of AmeriCorps.

Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (SAA) of 2009



Themes of the Serve America Act (SAA)

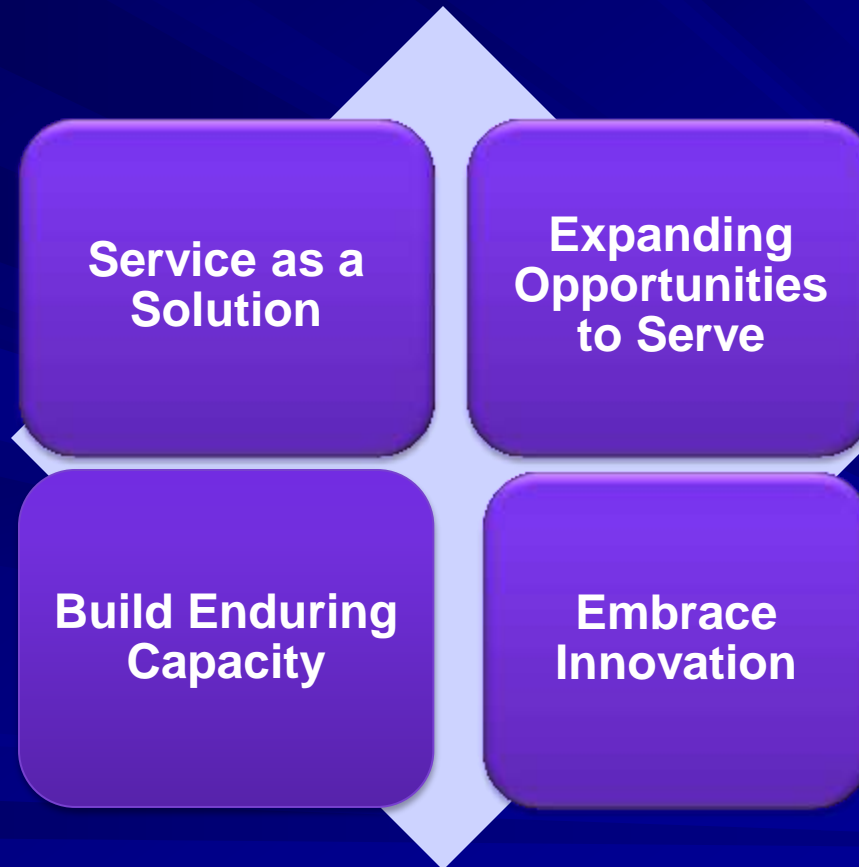
Focuses service on key national issues

Expands opportunities to serve

**Builds the capacity of individuals, nonprofits
and communities to succeed**

**Encourages innovative approaches
to solving problems**

2011-2015 CNCS Strategic Plan



National Service Partners



The Serve Illinois Commission administers AmeriCorps*State programs, but is a partner with other national service entities.

Senior Corps

**RSVP - Retired & Senior
Volunteer Program**

**FGP - Foster Grandparents
Program**

**SCP - Senior Companions
Program**



AmeriCorps

VISTA – Volunteers in Service to America.

- Elimination of poverty
- Capacity building.

NCCC – National Civilian Community Corps

- Descendent of 1930's CCC (New Deal)

National Direct Programs

- Similar to State programs.
- Administered by CNCS.

AmeriCorps*State Programs

- Administered by state commissions.



AmeriCorps Programs

AmeriCorps “programs” are:

- ✓ **Public or private non-profit organizations**
- ✓ **Labor organizations**
- ✓ **Community organizations**
- ✓ **Faith-based organizations**
- ✓ **Institutions of higher education**
- ✓ **States, territories and other government entities**
- ✓ **Indian Tribes**
- ✓ **Partnerships of the above**



AmeriCorps Service

AmeriCorps Motto - **“Getting Things Done”**

Focus on direct service in the community

- Tutor and mentor
- Assist crime victims
- Community health
- Recruit volunteers
- Prisoner outreach
- Environmental protection
- Restoration of parks
- Adult literacy
- Prenatal care
- Disaster Services
- Economic Opportunity
- Other activities not listed



AmeriCorps Members

- Build leadership skills, an ethic of service, and civic engagement.
- Strengthen Communities
 - Programs involve the community
 - Build relationships with faith- and community-based organizations



AmeriCorps Members

Terms of Service:

- Minimum 8 full time MSY/FTE required (20 Slots if competitive)
- Full Time = 1,700 hours of service in 9 to 12 months
- Half Time = 900 hours
- Reduced Half Time = 675
- Quarter Time = 450
- Minimum Time = 300



AmeriCorps Member Benefits

Living Allowance

- \$12,630 (min)-\$24,930 (max) per member
- Not required if less than full-time

Education Award

- \$5,815 for full-time members
- Pay student loans or attend school
- Transferable if Member is over 55



AmeriCorps Member Benefits

Loan Deferment

- Student loans may be deferred during service time

Child Care

- Available for income-eligible full-time members

Health Care

- Available to all full-time members



Member Prohibited Activities

- (a) While charging time to the AmeriCorps program, accumulating service or training hours, or otherwise performing activities supported by the AmeriCorps program or the Corporation, staff and members may not engage in the following activities:
 - (1) Attempting to influence legislation;
 - (2) Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
 - (3) Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;
 - (4) Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;
 - (5) Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;
 - (6) Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;

Member Prohibited Activities

- (7) Engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization;
- (8) Providing a direct benefit to—
 - (i) A business organized for profit;
 - (ii) A labor union;
 - (iii) A partisan political organization;
 - (iv) A nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 except that nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent participants from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative; and
 - (v) An organization engaged in the religious activities described in paragraph (g) of this section, unless Corporation assistance is not used to support those religious activities;

Member Prohibited Activities

- (9) Conducting a voter registration drive or using Corporation funds to conduct a voter registration drive;
- (10) Providing abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services;
- (11) AmeriCorps members may not write a grant application to the Corporation or to any other Federal Agency; and
- (12) Such other activities as the Corporation may prohibit.
- Individuals may exercise their rights as private citizens and may participate in the activities listed above on their initiative, on non-AmeriCorps time, and using non-Corporation funds. Individuals should not wear the AmeriCorps logo while doing so.

AmeriCorps*State Programs



AmeriCorps*State Programs

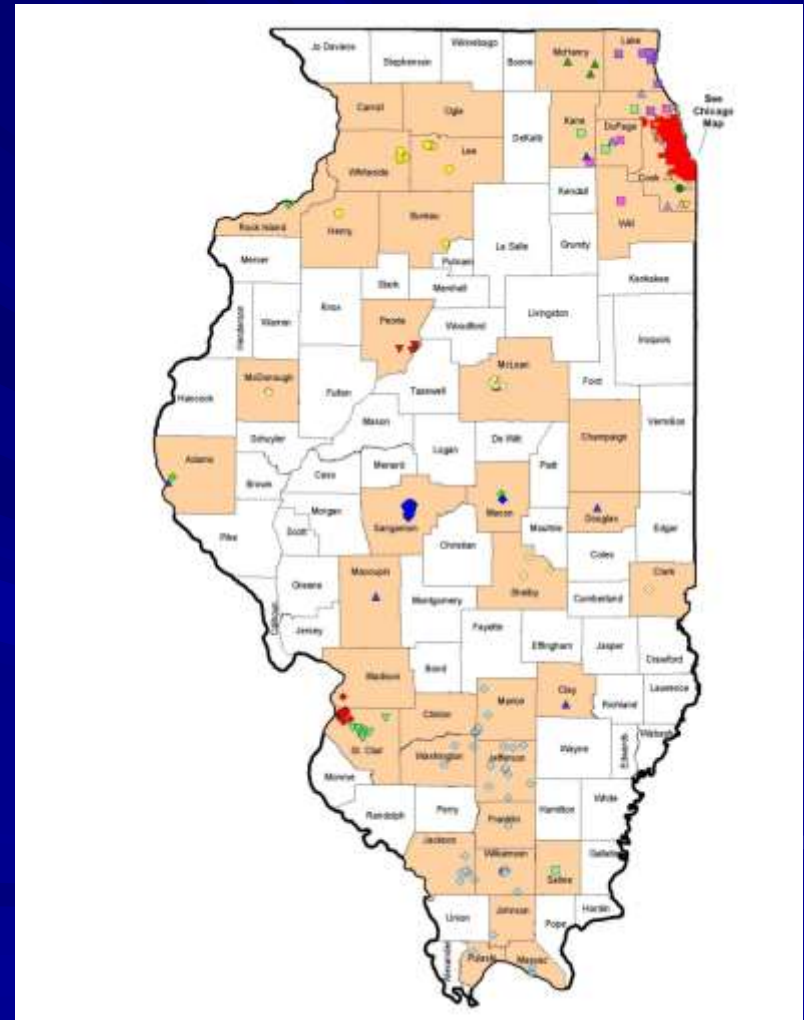
In 2016-17:

■ Illinois has 32 AmeriCorps*State Programs

- 9 “Competitive”
- 23 “Formula”

About 400 AmeriCorps host sites in approximately 40 counties

About 1,600 Members



AmeriCorps*State Program Funding

Two funding streams of AmeriCorps*State programs:

- **AmeriCorps*Competitive**
 - Funding determined by the CNCS
 - Applications submitted by state service commissions
 - 20 slot minimum
- **AmeriCorps*Formula**
 - Funding determined by state service commissions
 - 8 MSY minimum



AmeriCorps*State Programs

Program responsibilities:

- Application process
- Recruit Members
- Interview process
- Background checks
- Member contracts
- Member timekeeping
- Foster communication among Members
- Provide Training
- Member close-out



AmeriCorps*State Program Required Program Participation

Commission-Sponsored Trainings

Program Director Training (July)

Monthly Program Calls

National Service Recognition Day (October)

Other Trainings as required by the Commission

2017 National Service Recognition Day Springfield IL



Illinois Disaster Corps

- All programs must select at 1 to 2 Members to receive additional disaster response training (includes a three day on-site training)
- In times of disaster those Members may be deployed to support response efforts



AmeriCorps*State Programs Required Days of Service

Veterans Day of Service



Martin Luther King Day

AMERICORPS WEEK



2017-2018 AmeriCorps*State NOFO

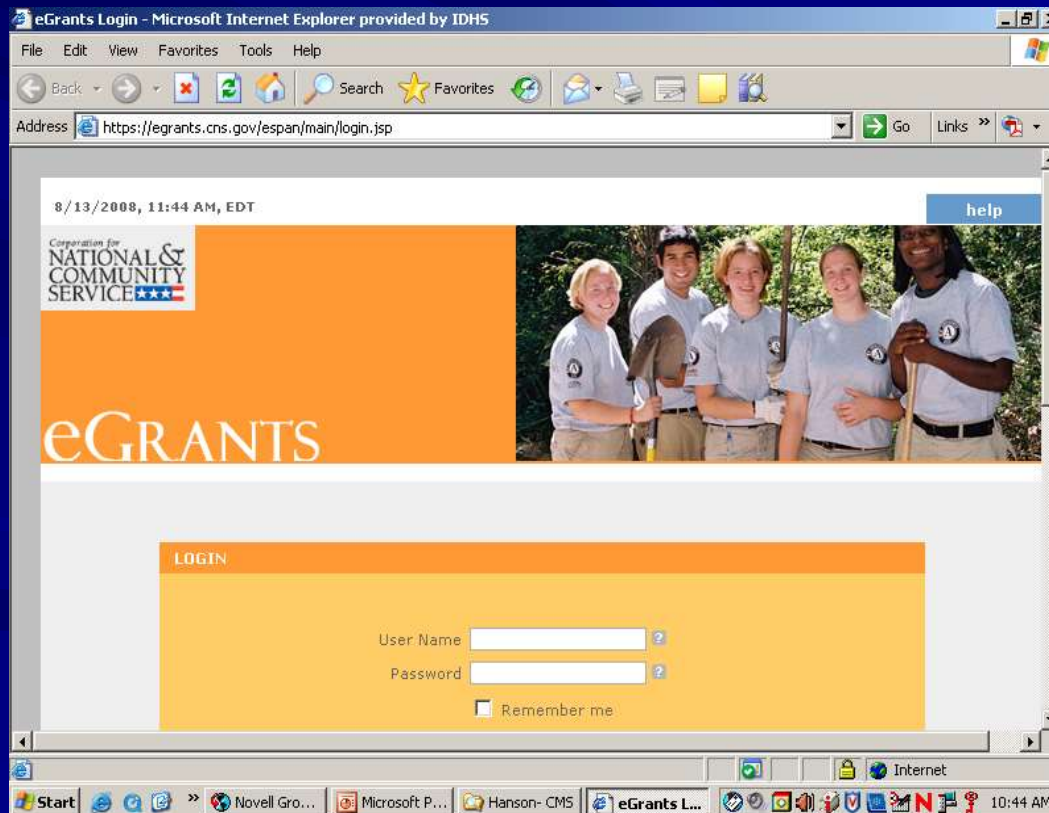


AmeriCorps 2017-18 Timeline

- **NOFO Posting Date: August 11, 2016**
- **Applications Due In eGrants: December 2, 2016**
- **“Other Documents” Due to Serve Illinois: December 2, 2016**
- **Application Scoring: January-April 2017**
- **Serve Illinois Commission Deadline to Submit Applications to CNCS: January 18, 2017**
- **Competitive Award Notification: May 2017**
- **Formula Award Notification: June 2017**
- **Program Start Date (Year 1):**
 - Competitive Programs - No earlier than July 1, 2017**
 - Formula Programs – No earlier than August 7, 2017**

AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18

All applications must be submitted in the
CNCS online eGrants system by 5pm CST
December 2, 2016



AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18

Additional required documents must be received by Serve Illinois by 5:00 pm CST on December 2, 2016:

- 1) Audit / Financial Statements (most recent)
- 2) Indirect Cost Rate Approval Letter
- 3) Logic Model Worksheet
- 4) Organizational Chart
- 5) Letters of support (Multi-Focus)
- 6) Evaluation (if applicable)

AMERICORPS NOFO 2017-18

Grant share may not exceed:

- **Traditional: \$13,830**
- **Professional Corps: \$1,000**
- **EAP: \$800**

***CNCS and Serve Illinois will score well written grants higher if their cost per member is less than the maximum**



AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18

Basic Selection Criteria:

a) Executive Summary:

A brief paragraph, maximum of a half-page
(0 percent of overall weight)

b) Program Design

(50 percent of overall weight)

c) Organizational Capability

(25 percent of overall weight)

d) Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

(25 percent of overall weight)

e) Evaluation Plan

(0 percent of overall weight)

The Serve Illinois Commission reserves the right to consider factors other than the applicant's final score in determining final grant recommendations.

AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18

CNCS Priority Areas:

- *Disaster Services*
- *Economic Opportunity*
- *Education*
- *Environmental Stewardship*
- *Healthy Futures*
- *Veterans and Military Families*
- *Governor/ Mayor Initiatives*
- *My Brother's Keeper*
- *Multi-focus intermediaries*
- *Safer Communities*
- *Encore Programs*



AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18

Serve Illinois Commission Priority Areas:

1. CNCS Priority Areas, plus

- a. Intergenerational Initiatives (not senior citizen serving senior citizen)
- b. Violence Prevention and Intervention
- c. Volunteer Connectors

2. Geography

The Commission will give special consideration to programs whose service sites are located in geographic regions within Illinois that are under-served by current Commission-funded programs.

3. Target Populations

The Commission will give special consideration to programs that target Veterans, Service Members, Veterans and Military Families, At-Risk Youth in High-crime Areas, and People with Disabilities.



AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18 Application Narratives

Executive Summary

- Copy and paste from page 15
- Do not include any other language

AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18

Application Narratives

Program Design

- **Need**
- Intervention
- Theory of Change and Logic Model
- **Evidence Base**
- Notice Priority
- Member Training
- Member Supervision
- Member Experience
- Commitment to AmeriCorps Identification

AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18 Application Narratives

Organizational Capability

- Organizational Background and Staffing**
- Compliance and Accountability**
- Past Performance for Current Grantees and Former Grantees Only**

AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18 Application Narratives

Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy

- Cost Effectiveness
- Budget Adequacy



AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18

Application Narratives (cont'd)

Evaluation Summary or Plan

- First time competing, enter N/A
- Continuation grantees, submit evaluation plan
- Recompeting grantees, submit evaluation report



AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18 Budget

Three sections in an AmeriCorps program budget:

Section 1 – Program Operating Costs

Section 2 – Member Costs

Section 3 – Administrative/Indirect Costs

AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18 Budget

Section 1 – Program Operating Costs

- 1) Personnel Expenses and Fringe Benefits
- 2) Staff Travel – Including \$1,000 to attend CNCS and Commission events.
- 3) Member Travel – Including sufficient funds to attend “National Service Recognition Day.”
- 4) Equipment - \$5,000 or more per unit.
- 5) Supplies - \$1,000 or more.
- 6) Contractual
- 7) Staff Training
- 8) Member Training
- 9) Evaluation
- 10) Other program operating costs.

Background Checks

- FBI Fingerprint Check
- Illinois State Police Check
- State of Residency Check (unless they are enrolled full time at an Illinois university/college)
- NSOPW Check
- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services CANTS Check

AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18 Budget

Section 2 – Member Costs

- 1) Living Allowance - \$12,530 minimum for full time members.
- 2) Member Support Costs – FICA, Worker's Compensation, Health Care. No unemployment insurance.
- 3) Do not budget for Education Awards.



AMERICORPS

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

AmeriCorps & the Affordable Care Act

- Grantees must provide healthcare that meets minimum essential coverage (MEC) to members serving 1700 hours (full time service) who are not currently covered.
- Programs may provide health insurance to less than full time members if desired.
- Members may stay on their parents or spouses insurance, insurance obtained on the Federal Marketplace (Bronze level minimum), Medicaid, private insurance or military benefits.

AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18 Budget

Section 3 – Administration Costs

**Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate (IDC) Method,
5% Fixed Administrative Cost Method, or De Minimis
10% Method**

**The Serve Illinois Commission will retain 1% of all
CNCS grant dollars for monitoring, training, and
technical assistance costs to support programs in
the portfolio.**

AmeriCorps NOFO 2016-2017 Budget

Matching Funds Requirement

Overall match (Total of Sections 1, 2, and 3)

- Years 1, 2, & 3, match = 24% of budgeted funds.
- Year 4 = 26%
- Year 5 = 30%
- Year 6 = 34%
- Year 7 = 38%
- Year 8 = 42%
- Year 9 = 46%
- Year 10 = 50%



REMINDERS....



Complete the Intent Survey

- We will use the survey to send out future emails.
- Only applicants that have completed the survey will be reviewed
- Your answers are your best guess and do not lock you in

**We will contact you at a later date
with the eGrants Application Number.**

**Do not wait to start writing your grant application.
Use Word and copy it to eGrants later.**

FAQs

- Questions and responses provided at the Bidders' Conferences are not considered valid and official.
- All questions and responses will be posted in writing, via a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at Serve.Illinois.gov. All questions and answers posted in the FAQs on the Serve Illinois website are considered valid and official.

AmeriCorps NOFO 2017-18 QUESTIONS?



Address questions to:

DPH.ServeIllinois@illinois.gov

**Answers to questions will be posted on
the Serve Illinois Commission website.**

Remember, we are...

